



NEWS RELEASE

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

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City of Santa Barbara Hosts Dedication Ceremony for Fire Station Solar Energy Project

SANTA BARBARA, CA – September 27, 2007

The City of Santa Barbara will celebrate the completion of a solar energy project at **Fire Station #2 (819 Cacique Street) on Tuesday, October 2nd at 10 a.m.** Mayor Marty Blum, Public Works Director Tony Nisich, and Fire Battalion Chief John Ahlman will speak about the benefits of the solar panel project at the fire facility and the City's upcoming renewable energy projects. They will be joined by City Council, City staff, and community leaders who support the City's achievements in renewable energy. Tours will be provided so attendees can view the 15 kW rooftop solar panel project and learn how it supplies approximately half of the fire station's energy.

As part of the Sustainable Santa Barbara Program, the City is taking many steps to reduce global warming emissions throughout its facilities and vehicle fleet. Approximately 23% of the City's total electrical energy use is derived from renewable energy. A recently completed fuel cell generator at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant transforms methane gas to electrical energy on a daily basis, supplying enough energy for 500 homes. Energy conservation and the use of renewable energy in facilities is also a top priority. All traffic signals operate on Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting. A Green Building Policy was adopted to curb energy consumption in new construction, major renovations, and building retrofits.

To learn more information about the City of Santa Barbara's efforts to prevent climate change and become more sustainable, check out the 2007 Annual Sustainable Santa Barbara Report on the City's website at www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.